

Announcement of Two Workshops to Develop a Mercury Science Strategy for the Bay-Delta System

A Mercury Science Strategy (Strategy) is being developed to provide an integrated framework for evaluating mercury contamination in the Bay-Delta System and watershed and for linking mercury investigations to ecosystem management and ecological restoration projects. Two workshops are being convened to facilitate development of the Strategy. Environmental decision makers, resource managers, scientists, and other stakeholders involved with mercury issues in the Bay-Delta System and watershed are encouraged to attend one or both workshops and to provide input to the Strategy. The workshops will also provide an opportunity to learn about the results of recent mercury investigations in the Bay-Delta System and in other, intensively studied ecosystems. The workshops will be held at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, in Moss Landing, California. The draft Strategy is to be completed in early 2003.

First Mercury Workshop, September 16-17, 2002

The first day of this workshop, Monday, September 16, will be devoted to a series of presentations summarizing final scientific findings of the CALFED project “An Assessment of Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed.” Tuesday morning, September 17, will be devoted to open discussion of these findings and to descriptions of other, ongoing or planned studies of the transport, cycling, fate, transformations, and food-web transfer of mercury in the Bay-Delta System and watershed. Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to discussions of the Mercury Science Strategy, providing an opportunity for participants to provide input. The workshop agenda can be accessed via the Science Program section of the CALFED website <http://calfed.water.ca.gov/Programs/Science/Science.shtml>.

Second Mercury Workshop, October 8-9, 2002

The second workshop will include an assessment of the state of our knowledge regarding mercury in the Bay-Delta System and watershed; the identification of key management questions and goals pertaining to mercury in the Bay-Delta System and watershed; the identification of critical information gaps concerning the distribution and behavior of mercury in the ecosystem; the identification of potential linkages between ecological restoration projects and mercury cycling in the basin; and the formulation of goals and objectives for mercury investigations. The agenda for this workshop, when finalized, will be posted on the Science Program section of the CALFED website <http://calfed.water.ca.gov/Programs/Science/Science.shtml>.

Registration and Registration Fee

There will be a registration fee of \$40 per person for each workshop attended. The registration fee will cover the cost of refreshments and food during morning breaks, lunches, and afternoon breaks, all of which will be served at the meeting site. The pre-paid registration fee is necessary because the workshop organizers cannot use state funds to cover costs of food and refreshments.

The registration deadline for the September workshop is **September 6**. The registration deadline for the October workshop is **October 1**. There will be no on-site registration at the workshops.

Registration can be done on-line through the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Continuing Education web site: www.uwlax.edu/conted. If you experience difficulty registering on-line or would prefer to register by phone, please call 608-785-6508. The registration fee can be paid with Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.

Lodging

A block of rooms was not reserved for the first workshop (September 16-17), and we encourage attendees to make room reservations as soon as possible. A listing of area hotels is available at the web site of the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau

www.info.monterey.wegov2.com.

For the second workshop (October 8-9), a block of rooms has been reserved for the dates of October 7-10 at the Casa Munras Garden Hotel in Monterey at a rate of \$94 plus tax per night for a room with one or two occupants; the Hotel will charge an additional \$15 per night for each additional occupant. Parking at the hotel is free for registered guests. Reservations must be made by **September 5** to qualify for the group rate. When making your reservation with the Casa Munras Garden Hotel, be sure to inform them that you are with the “Mercury Workshop.”

Casa Munras Garden Hotel
700 Munras Avenue
Monterey, CA
Phone: 831-375-2411

The Casa Munras Garden Hotel is located in the heart of downtown within walking distance of the Monterey Bay Harbor, Fishermen's Wharf, the Custom House Plaza, the First Theatre, the Monterey Bay Aquarium on John Steinbeck's historic Cannery Row, and other local attractions.

Transportation

The Monterey Peninsula airport is located about 4 miles from the Casa Munras Garden Hotel. Travel time by auto from the Monterey airport to the hotel is about 10 minutes, and taxi service costs approximately \$10 one way. Rental cars are available at the Monterey airport. Ground shuttle service is available to and from the airports in Monterey, San Francisco, and San Jose.

Travel time by auto from downtown Monterey to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (new building at 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA), where the workshops are being held, is about 30 minutes. Directions to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories are available at the Laboratories' web site <http://www.mlml.calstate.edu/>. For directions to the Laboratories' new building, access the web site and click on “How to Find Us.”

For Further Information

For further information concerning the Mercury Science Strategy, please contact one of the three principal investigators for the project.

James Wiener
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
La Crosse, Wisconsin
phone: 608-785-6454
email: wiener.jame@uwlax.edu

David Krabbenhoft
U.S. Geological Survey
Middleton, Wisconsin
phone: 608-821-3843
email: dpkrabbe@usgs.gov

Cynthia Gilmour
The Academy of Natural Sciences, Estuarine Research Center
St. Leonard, Maryland
phone: 410-586-9713
email: gilmour@acnatsci.org